"House floors and house platforms are graded and covered with waveworn coral gravel (faumax). Water drains through this rapidly, keeping the platforms relatively clean and dry in rainy weather. Commonly the gravel is outlined with a row of coral blocks, which keep it in place. Along the lower sides of platforms on sloping ground the blocks are piled to form a rudimentary retaining wall. Appearance was clearly the motive for an elaboration noted on one site. This has an outer and an inner platform, the latter a few inches higher. A similar bit of terracing, somewhat overgrown, marks one side of the platform at Katel where the men's house of Rauau district formerly stood. This decoration apparently served to enhance the dignity of the place.

Coral blocks are piled in several places to form piers that extend into the lagoon. Large blocks form walls around the outside. These are filled in with finer rubble. On some of the piers are little houses, which get more breeze than those set back in the coconut grove. These buildings, though, being correspondingly exposed to high winds, do not last long. Two were destroyed during our stay. Two piers near our tent had lost the buildings that once stood on them, and the seaward walls had been battered in by waves during some typhoon.

Coral blocks are also used to build the fishing weirs described later."

1: Burrows--83A (1947-48) Woleaians
116, 321, 301 Ifalik

"Shell, both of turtles and molluscs, is cut into various ornaments: bracelets, ear-rings, pendants, necklaces, and little chains hung from holes in the ear-lobes. The Hamburg expedition collected a considerable variety of these, some of them no longer common. Disc-shaped beads in contrasting colors--white from trumpet shell, dark brown from tortoise shell--form necklaces and women's belts. A simple bow drill, nowadays tipped with steel, is used to perforate the shell. The discs are cut out by twirling between the hands a long-handled steel gouge. The belts are made of four to six strands of beads, the white shell forming a variety of rectilinear patterns against the background of dark turtle-shell. Most of the belts worn on Ifalik come from Eaurupik, which makes a specialty of this craft."

"Pearl shell and turtle shell are combined in the bonito hook (pā). This is of a type widespread in Oceania. It is composed of two pieces, a pearl-shell shank and a turtle-shell point. In the thick end of the shank a hole is bored to attach the line. (As this end is nearer the fisherman when in use, it is convenient and customary to call it the proximal end.) Little grooves are cut in the sides of the distal end to hold the lashings which attach the turtle-shell point. There are two of these lashings. In a specimen collected on Ifalik, which is now in Bishop Museum, Honolulu, both lashings pass through holes in a proximal projection of the point. Damm illustrates both this type and another, which has only one hole, for the distal lashing. In this type the proximal lashing passes entirely around the projection of the point, which flares out at the [83B] end to keep the lashing from slipping off.

Local variations in attachment of point to shank on bonito-hooks have been studied by Te Rangi Hiroa (Dr. Peter H. Buck). Following his lead, the writer compared types in different parts of Polynesia (Burrows 1938), and came to the conclusion that the type with two holes in a proximal projection of the point was invented in western Polynesia. Its occurrence as far west as Ifalik throws doubt on that conclusion. Fuller data from Micronesia will probably make possible a clearer reconstruction of the invention and diffusion of bonito hooks in Oceania.

The shank is shaped like the body of a small fish. This, and its pearly gleam, quite

like that of a fish's skin and scales, make it a most effective lure. As Buck has pointed out, shanks can be made of different colors by grinding off more or less of the outer layers of the shell. This is done deliberately, and the fisherman chooses which hook to use according to the light at the moment, or the kind of small fry on which the bonito are feeding, or by trial and error. Three names for hooks of different colors were told to me on Ifalik: renifār, with yellowish lustre; alo, bluish; and reneverale, reddish or coppery. Damm lists four names collected by Sarfert, none of which corresponds to these. Probably both lists are correct as far as they go, but incomplete.

As an additional lure, many bonito hooks have, lashed to the distal end, a tuft of feathers or of white fibers from the roots of the plants called guan and bogo li le pā."

1: Burrows--83B (1947-48) Woleaians
116, 321, 202 Ifalik

"Conch shells are used as trumpets (taui). In Ifalik the hole used for a mouthpiece is made, not by cutting off the pointed end, but by drilling in one side. The long-drawn monotone of such a trumpet summons the people to public meetings, and warns off evil in several rituals. One trumpet hangs from a branch of a small dead tree stuck in the ground beside the channel between the two inhabited islands. An obvious use there would be to summon a canoe from the other side for a ferry. But I never happened to see it so used. One night when a school of bonito had been surrounded by seines, natives in canoes kept several conch shell trumpets (as well as one or two navy boatswain's whistles) sounding over the lagoon all night."

1: Burrows--83B (1947-48) Woleaians
116, 412, 284, 321, 177 Ifalik

"As recently as 1909, the time of Sarfert's visit, all the adz heads were of Tridacna shell, lashed with sennit to wooden handles cut from a forked branch. In 1948 no shell adz heads were to be found. Similar handles and sennit lashing are used to attach steel plane blades."

1: Burrows--128
116, 321, 439

(1947-48)

Woleaians
Ifalik

"A regular article of import from Eaurupik is turtle-shell discs or beads for women's belts. Curiously, the German account of Eaurupik--written like that of Ifalik, by Damm from field notes by Sarfert--speaks of a belt of coconut-shell beads as characteristic of Eaurupik, and traded as far as Puluwat. But my Ifalik informants insisted that all their dark beads were of turtle shell, and that most of them came from Eaurupik. As usual, no mention was made of payment, or of return present. Swamp taro (pulaʀ), of which Ifalik has an abundance, is one possibility; but this grows on Eaurupik too."

2: Damm et al. --40 (1909) 1938 Woleaians
116, 321, 301, 415 Ifaluk

Coconut shells are used to fashion bowls, boxes, spoons, but above all, beads for decoration. These beads are made in the same way on Luangiua. Drawing 135 shows some crude pieces, which have been strung on a leaf nerve, and are still to be polished.

2: Damm et al. --40 [2] (1909) 1938 Woleaians
116, 321 Ifaluk

Shell is used for ax blades of Tridacna, fishing hooks of mother-of-pearl, shell beads, decorative disks of conus shell, dye bottles made of barnacles. The men make the red spondylus beads, and this task is especially important. This costly shell is purchased on Aurelik in exchange for loin aprons, knives and similar objects; the Aurelik natives fish for it inside the reef. Men break the shells into little pieces, grind them with a stone, and pierce them with the wúlewul borer. The large mother-of-pearl shell (sálo) was also worked in this manner.

Tortoise shell is used for decorative rings and fish hooks. The back shell of the tortoise is pried loose with a burning stick; then an ordinary bore is used to cut the fish hook out of the shell, and the rough skin of the ray's back polishes it and files it into shape.

2: Damm et al, --128-129 (1909) 1938 Woleaians
116, 321 Aurupik

The origin of the shell and coconut disks was very important. According to Dr. Born, the island was an important manufacturing center for spondylus disks and plates, and it supplied the larger part of the Carolines with its products. After the shell was cracked, the little square pieces were pierced, and for this purpose various instruments were used; the coconut disks were drilled with the stick borer (wŭrrewurr) or with a shark's tooth (Hellwig's nilibágo) and the sea-shell disks with the drill, (walupâup), which has a special swinging disk of turtle bones (Hellwig: šŭ lüwón); formerly it had a stone point, but that has been replaced by a wire point. While the drill works vertically, the stick borer is turned with the palm on the leg, so that its point stands up obliquely. Then you press the coconut plates with your free hand against the point. Now the pierced disks are threaded on a coconut leaf nerve, which has been split. Finally they are ground on a board with a piece of coral stone (-läâû), [129] and they are frequently wet with salt water during the process. Hellwig secured one of these half-finished chains from the little eleven-year-old, Marâi. She had just given the string the first grinding, which lasts about six minutes; and she had deliberately left the ends untouched.

6: Senfft--57
116, 202, 321

(no date) 1905

Woleaians
Woleai
Lamotrek

As a horn for signalling they use a (Triton?) shell (tani) and punch a hole in it.